

chapters dealing with municipal lodging-houses for women and some of the recently established "private lodging-homes."

It is scarcely necessary to add that the book disappoints the reader by failing to give any satisfactory treatment of the housing problem in its relation to the working woman's difficult problem of living on a small and precarious wage. Such a discussion to be fruitful must carefully separate different grades of women workers and all workers must again be separated from the unemployables, the permanently destitute, and the degraded. Only confusion results from an attempt to treat this problem as if it were identical for large and unrelated groups of women who have nothing in common except the fact that they work. Even if the discussion were confined to the group, say, of those employed in industrial occupations and alternative employments, many lines of discrimination would necessarily have to be drawn even within the group.

The present volume will be of interest in cities where the project of a municipal lodging-house for women is engaging attention. There is, as Mrs. Higgs points out, in every city a stratum of women just above the workhouse "struggling hard for self-maintenance in which, by every possible means, the community should encourage them." A safe and temporary shelter such as the properly conducted municipal lodging-house supplies will often prevent the irreparable downfall of women who may easily be kept self-respecting and self-supporting. It is this problem to which Mrs. Higgs has primarily devoted herself in her courageous investigations, her writings, and her very practical work in the establishment of some women's lodging-homes in Lancashire. It is to be regretted that this book did not come from her alone and deal with this single problem.

EDITH ABBOTT

On the Inheritance of the Diathesis of Phthisis and Insanity. A statistical study based upon the family history of 1,500 criminals, by CHARLES GORING, M.D., B.Sc. London: Dunlan & Co., 1909. Pp. 28. 3s.

This is one of the studies in national deterioration made by the school of Professor Karl Pearson in University College, London. It illustrates the value of utilizing the materials in public institutions of charity and correction for social statistics to supplement

the clinical studies which cannot furnish reliable generalizations. The problem is to discover how far tendencies to tuberculosis and insanity are inherited. The population of prisons is taken because it represents a random selection and because it can be studied under conditions which can be fairly well controlled. The method of investigation and calculation deserves attention. Only certain provisional conclusions of the author can be presented.

Tubercular diathesis is inherited and at the same rate as all other physical characters in man. The prevalence of tuberculosis in the population lies between 8 per cent and 10 per cent. In the class dealt with there is no evidence of marital infection, and the incidence of phthisis in both husband and wife may be due to assortative mating. There is no definite evidence that the correlation between parents and offspring is greater in the poorer classes. The importance of the hereditary factor as opposed to direct contagion is supported by the facts (1) that the prevalence of phthisis among children of infected mothers is not appreciably greater than it is among children of infected fathers; (2) that the prevalence of phthisis among workers exposed to constant infection in a consumption hospital has been found to be not significantly greater than among individuals with the same degree of diathesis in the general population. The insane diathesis is certainly inherited.

C. R. HENDERSON

Social Insurance, a Program of Social Reform. By HENRY ROGERS SEAGER. New York: Macmillan, 1910. Pp. 175. \$1.00.

Professor Seager has presented in readable style the essential points of the argument for social insurance: the theoretical basis in ethical considerations, the economic interest, and the practicability of tested systems. Much of the volume is devoted to summarizing well-known materials; but the critical examination of the American old-age-pension schemes, of the English compensation law, of methods of unemployment insurance, of sickness insurance deserve special attention. The book is an excellent introduction to the whole theory of social legislation, is sane and adapted to the general understanding.

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